

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7 are amended herein. No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because it is believed that the amendment of claims 1 and 7 puts this application into condition for allowance and should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised. Claims 1 and 7, both as amended, clarify that for a voltage supply "voltage changeover units are located at an opposite side to the color developing devices with reference to the printed circuit board (pcb)."

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 15-18 are allowed. (Office Action Summary).

Claims 6 and 8-13 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate the indications of allowable subject matter. However, claims 6 and 8-13 are not rewritten to independent form, since patentability is submitted to reside in the independent claims 1 and 7 from which claims 6 and 8-13 respectively depend.

ITEM 2: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-5, 7, 14, AND 19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HIRST IN VIEW OF OGUMA ET AL. (US 2002/0064390) AND OSAKA (U.S.P. 5,051,866)

The Examiner rejects independent claims 1, 7, and 19 (and respective dependent claims 2-5 and 14) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst in view of Oguma and Osaka. The rejections are traversed.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 19 recite, respectively, a voltage supply device and an image forming apparatus, using claim 1 as an example, including "a plurality of fixed contact point terminals provided at one end of the respective color developing devices; and a plurality of voltage changeover units for selectively connecting the PCB and the fixed contact point terminals to selectively supply the voltage from the high voltage supply source to the respective color developing devices."

Fixed Contact Point Terminals Not Discussed

None of art relied on by the Examiner, alone or in combination, discuss these features including "fixed contact point terminals provided at one end of the respective color developing

devices." (Emphasis added).

Voltage Changeover Units At Opposite Side To Color Developing Devices With Reference To PCB Not Discussed

Further, claims 1 and 7, both as amended, recite a voltage supply device, using claim 1 as an example, "wherein the voltage changeover units are located at an opposite side to the color developing devices with reference to the printed circuit board(pcb)."

None of art relied on by the Examiner , alone or in combination, discuss these such units located at an opposite side to the color developing devices with reference to the pcb.

On pages 2-3 of the Action, the Examiner mistakenly contends that Oguma's discussion of:

a development sleeve (fig. 1 part 12) having a coil spring electrode (fig. 1 part 29b) at one end as a contact portion to supply the development bias (p. 4 paragraph [0053])

discusses a fixed contact point terminal at one end of developing device. In item 6 of the Action, entitled Response to Arguments, the Examiner contends:

(t)he spring type contact points provided by Oguma et al. is clearly seen in fig. 1 to be located at one end portion of the developing roller, and is not taught to be movable to any other portion other than that as seen in the figure. Further, applicant's invention itself teaches the use of a spring to be used as a terminal for conducting a bias to/from a developing roller (paragraph [0072]).

However, Applicants respectfully point out that the contacts discussed by Oguma are not fixed contact point terminals provided at one end of the respective color developing devices. As illustrated, for example, in FIGs. 3 and 4 and discussed in paragraph [0072] of the published application:

the relay output terminals 191d', 191e', 191f' are connected through a connecting line patterned in the PCB 195 to the first to third contact points 195d', 195e', 195f' of the PCB output terminal 195a which are connected to the fixed contact point terminals 113a, 115a, 151a of the respective developing devices by first to third spring terminals 198d, 198e, 198f.

(Emphasis added).

That is, according to an aspect of the present invention, the spring terminals discussed by the Examiner connect to the "fixed contact point terminal provided at one end of the respective color developing devices."

Oguma merely teaches (see, for example paragraphs [0052] and [0057]) contact portions 29a, 29b, and 29c, none of which discuss a "point" terminal.

Summary

Since features recited by claims 1-5, 7, 14, and 19 are not discussed by the art relied on by the Examiner, alone or in combination, and *prima facie* obviousness is not established, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1-5, 7, 14, and 19 allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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